GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1347
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015
PROCUREMENT OF RICE .
Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Karandlaje Km. Shobha;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Mahendran Shri C.;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Raj Smt. Krishna;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Simha Shri Prathap

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the quantum of rice procured by the Government agencies and they are lagging behind the targets fixed for 2014-15 in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the targets fixed and achieved along with the quantum procured by private agencies and the prices paid by the Government and private entrepreneurs, State and UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government has also received complaints indicating irregularities in procurement affecting the farmers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate procurement facilities so that farmers are able to get minimum support for their produce?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE)

(a) & (b): The total target for year Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2014-15 spread from 1st October, 2014 to 30th September, 2015 is 351.50 lakh tonnes, out of which 200.57 Lakh MT has been procured till 27.2.2015. In KMS 2013-14 during the same period, against the overall target of 368.64 Lakh MT rice, a quantity of 232.83 Lakh MT of rice was procured.

There is marginal decline in rice/ paddy procurement during current season mainly due to less market arrivals and damage of crop in cyclone etc. leading to reduced production of paddy. The Government procures foodgrains from the farmers directly through its Agencies at the uniform Minimum Support Price (MSP) in the country and the MSP being paid to the farmers in KMS 2014-15 is Rs.1360 per quintal for common grade and Rs.1400 per quintal for grade A of paddy. The Government does not maintain record of purchase done by the Private Agencies and the prices paid by them to the farmers.

(c) & (d): No complaints of irregularities in procurement affecting the farmers have been received.

In order to ensure adequate procurement facilities so that farmers are able to get minimum support for their produce, following mechanism have been put in place:

1. Keeping in view the procurement potential areas, procurement centres for MSP operations are opened by Govt agencies, both FCI and state Govt, after mutual consultations.

2. Farmers are made aware of the MSP operations by way of advertisements like displaying banners, pamphlets, announcement for MSP and specification in print and electronic media.

3. Payment for the wheat and paddy procured from farmers is either made directly to the farmers or through arthias/co-operative societies as per prevailing system of the State. Payment to farmers are also made through A/c payee cheque/electronic mode. Even in respect of paddy purchased by millers, GOI has already advised state Govt to ensure payment to farmers by millers/Pvt traders through A/c payee cheque so that trail of payment can be made while issuing MSP certificate to millers for delivery of levy rice to State Govt/FCI.

4. State Governments are encouraged to undertake decentralised procurement, so as to enhance the procurement of food grains.